



Washington State Legislature

April 5, 2007

The Honorable Christine O. Gregoire
Governor, State of Washington
Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: EFSEC, Application No. 2003-01

Dear Governor Gregoire,

We are writing regarding the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) recommendations to you concerning the proposed wind energy facilities in Kittitas County. We have been contacted by many of our constituents who are deeply concerned their opinions are not being heard.

With the mandate for energy producers as a result of Initiative 937, your office and the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) must resolve any site-specific conflict between the general concepts of the initiative and the deference that should be given to local government decisions and development regulations pertaining to a specific project. This is central to the permitting process as underscored by the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA). Deference to local authorities is particularly important when Wind Farms are sited. These types of projects have greater impacts to adjoining and nearby properties and their values.

It is our understanding you have three options before you.

The first option would be to make an executive decision to approve the council recommendations.

The second option would be to reject the application. Choosing this option would not mean wind farms could not be built, rather the applicants would have to follow the same permitting process as the other wind energy projects within Kittitas County.

The third option would be to direct EFSEC to reconsider certain aspects of the project. While this would provide an opportunity for more public input, we have confidence in the County's ability to address the local land use concerns.

Many of our constituents fear you do not presently have enough information before you to fully understand the potential negative impacts your approval may have. **Before you make this decision, our constituents would like a formal fact-finding meeting with**

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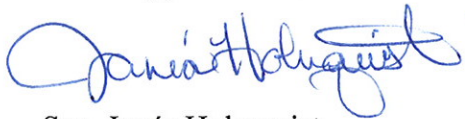
you to ensure you have all of the information before you. *Because of "ex parte" rules, such a meeting, at minimum, would require notice and opportunity for all parties to participate.*

EFSEC should give deference to the local decision-making process. In light of the fact that this is the first time EFSEC has overturned a local decision, we are uncertain whether appropriate deference was given to Kittitas County. It is for these reasons our constituents have been increasingly frustrated and burdened by a state agency action with the potential to impose state-dominated "solutions" for what should otherwise be a local decision.

Please know we are not taking a position in favor of or against the project. The wind farm by itself is not the issue, rather who decides and the integrity of the process is our concern.

Thank you for your consideration, please contact us if you have any questions.

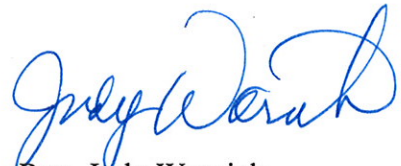
Sincerely,



Sen. Janéa Holmquist
13th Legislative District
360-786-7624



Rep. Bill Hinkle
13th Legislative District
360-786-7808



Rep. Judy Warnick
13th Legislative District
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